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കേരള ഗസറ്റ്
KERALA GAZETTE
അസാധാരണം
EXTRAORDINARY

ആധികാരികമായി പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുന്നത്
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GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Agriculture (EB) Department

NOTIFICATION

G.O. (P) No. 15/2025/Agri. *Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 12th September, 2025.*

S. R. O. No. 1051/2025

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Kerala Public Services Act, 1968 (19 of 1968), the Government of Kerala hereby make the following rules further to amend the Special Rules for the Kerala Soil Conservation Service, 2008, issued under G.O. (P) No.78/2008/AD dated 24th April, 2008 and published as S.R.O. No.434/2008 in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No.866 dated 3rd May 2008, namely:--

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RULES

1. *Short title and commencement:*--(1) These rules may be called the Special Rules for the Kerala Soil Conservation Service (Amendment) Rules, 2025**.**

(2) They shall come into force w.e.f. 01-04-2023.

2. Amendment of the Rules:- In the Kerala Soil Conservation Service Rules, 2008,--

(1) in rule 2, under the heading, BRANCH II-SOIL SURVEY, for the existing entries, the following shall be substituted, namely:--

Category 1	Additional Director (Soil Survey)
Category 2	Principal Soil Chemist/Joint Director (Soil Survey)
Category 3	Deputy Director (Soil Survey)
Category 4	Assistant Director (Soil Survey)/ Senior Chemist
Category 5	Soil Survey Officer/Research Assistant/Cartographer/ Technical Assistant

(2) in rule 3,- (i) under the heading BRANCH I-SOIL CONSERVATION against category 4, District Soil Conservation Officer/Assistant Director of Soil Conservation, for Note:- the following shall be substituted, namely:--

"*Note:*-- (1) A ratio of 5:2:1 shall be maintained between (a) Agriculture graduates or its equivalent recruited direct as Soil Conservation Officer (b) Engineering Graduates recruited directly as Assistant Engineer (Soil Conservation) and (c) Overseer/1st Grade Draftsman appointed by transfer to the cadre of Assistant Engineer (Soil Conservation) and Overseer/1st Grade Draftsman appointed by transfer to the cadre of Soil Conservation Officer in the Kerala Soil Conservation Subordinate Service Rules.

If sufficient number of persons are not available in one category for appointment by promotion in the above ratio, such vacancies shall also be filled up in the manner as given below:-

Case-1: In the absence of qualified persons in category (a), such vacancy shall be filled by persons from (b) and (c) in the ratio of 2:1. For that purpose, a block of every 3 vacancies shall be filled up in the following order, namely:-

1st vacancy - Category (b)

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2nd vacancy - Category (c)
3rd vacancy - Category (b)

Case-2: In the absence of qualified persons in category (b), such vacancy shall be filled by persons from (a) and (c) in the ratio of 5:1. For that purpose, a block of every 6 vacancies shall be filled up in the following order, namely:-

1st vacancy - Category (a)
2nd vacancy - Category (a)
3rd vacancy - Category (a)
4th vacancy - Category (c)
5th vacancy - Category (a)
6th vacancy- Category (a)

Case-3: In the absence of qualified persons in category (c), such vacancy shall be filled by persons from (a) and (b) in the ratio of 5:2. For that purpose, a block of every 7 vacancies shall be filled up in the following order, namely:-

1st vacancy - Category (a)
2nd vacancy - Category (a)
3rd vacancy - Category (b)
4th vacancy - Category (a)
5th vacancy - Category (a)
6th vacancy - Category (b)
7th vacancy - Category (a)

In the absence of qualified persons in a category against their respective turn under Case 1, 2 and 3 above, the vacancy shall be filled by Direct Recruitment."

(ii) under the heading BRANCH II- SOIL SURVEY for the existing entries the following shall be substituted, namely:--

Category 1	Additional Director (Soil Survey)	(i)	By promotion from Category 2 of Branch II
		(ii)	In the absence of qualified persons under item (i) above by direct recruitment.
Category 2	Principal Soil Chemist/ Joint Director (Soil Survey)	(i)	By promotion from Category 3 of Branch II

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		(ii)	In the absence of qualified persons under item (i) above by direct recruitment.
Category 3	Deputy Director (Soil Survey)	(i)	By promotion from Category 4 of Branch II
		(ii)	In the absence of qualified persons under item (i) above by direct recruitment.
Category 4	Assistant Director (Soil Survey)/ Senior Chemist	(i)	By promotion from Category 5 of Branch II
		(ii)	In the absence of qualified persons under item (i) above by direct recruitment.
Category 5	Soil Survey Officer/ Research Assistant/ Cartographer/Technical Assistant		By Direct recruitment

(3) in rule 4, - (i) under the heading, BRANCH I-SOIL CONSERVATION, for 'category 4' the following shall be substituted, namely:--

Category 4	District Soil Conservation Officer/Assistant Director of Soil Conservation	By Promotion	(i)	Degree in Agriculture **OR** B.Sc. or B.Tech. Degree in Agricultural Engineering or Civil Engineering **OR** Diploma in Civil or Agricultural Engineering **OR** A pass in Civil Engineering subject of the K.G.T.E or M.G.T.E. with a minimum of 3 subjects in Higher **OR** I.T.I. Certificate in Draftsman trade (Civil or Mechanical) or in Surveyor trade or equivalent qualification.
			(ii)	Must have undergone Gazetted Officers Training in Soil

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				Conservation arranged by the Department Note:- (a) Directly recruited Soil Conservation Officers and Assistant Engineers should have a minimum service of three years in that cadre. (b) Soil Conservation Officers and Assistant Engineers promoted from feeder categories with Diploma in Civil or Agricultural Engineering should have a minimum service of one year in that cadre. (c) Soil conservation officers and Assistant Engineers promoted from feeder categories with pass in Civil Engineering subject of the K.G.T.E. or M.G.T.E. with a minimum of 3 subjects in Higher or I.T.I. Certificate in Draftsman trade (Civil or Mechanical) or in Surveyor trade or equivalent qualification and should have a minimum service of three years in that cadre.
	By Direct Recruitment	I	(a) (i)	Degree in Agriculture	
			(ii)	M.Sc. in Agronomy or Soil Science	
				OR	
			(b) (i)	Degree in Agricultural Engineering	
			(ii)	M.Sc/M.Tech degree in any branch of Agricultural Engineering	
				AND	
		II		Experience for three years in Soil Conservation works under any State Government or Government	

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of India.

(ii) under the heading, BRANCH II-SOIL SURVEY for the existing entries, the following shall be substituted, namely:--

Category 1	Additional Director (Soil Survey)	By Promotion		Degree in Agriculture
		By Direct Recruitment	(i)	Degree in Agriculture
			(ii)	M.Sc. Agriculture with specialization in Soil Science or Soil Survey
			(iii)	Ph.D in Soil Science/ Soil Survey and
			(iv)	Experience for a period of 10 years in Soil Survey after acquiring M.Sc. Experience may be obtained from Central or State Government Departments or from an Institution recognized by Government of Kerala.
Category 2	Principal Soil Chemist/Joint Director (Soil Survey)	By Promotion	(i)	Degree in Agriculture
			(ii)	Must have undergone Training in Soil Survey prescribed for the officers of Soil Survey
		By Direct Recruitment	(i)	Degree in Agriculture
			(ii)	M.Sc. Agriculture with specialization in Soil Science or Soil Survey
			(iii)	Ph.D in Soil Science or Soil Survey and
			(iv)	Experience in Soil Survey/Remote sensing for 5 years (minimum) in a Government Department/ Institution recognized by the Government of Kerala after attaining the qualification

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				in item (i) above.
Category 3	Deputy Director (Soil Survey)	By Promotion	(i)	Degree in Agriculture
			(ii)	Must have undergone the prescribed training in Soil Survey
		By Direct recruitment	(i)	Degree in Agriculture
			(ii)	M.Sc. in Agriculture with specialization in Soil Science or Soil Survey
			(iii)	Experience in Soil Survey for a period of 5 years after attaining the qualification mentioned in item (ii) above.
Category 4	Assistant Director (Soil Survey) /Senior Chemist	By Promotion		Degree in Agriculture
		By Direct recruitment	(i)	Degree in Agriculture
			(ii)	M. Sc. in Agriculture with specialization in Soil Science or Soil Survey.
			(iii)	Experience in Soil Survey or Soil analytical work for a minimum period of five years
Category 5	Soil Survey Officer/ Research Assistant/ Cartographer/ Technical Assistant	By Direct recruitment		Degree in Agriculture

(4) in rule 5, under the heading BRANCH -II SOIL SURVEY, for the existing entries, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"1.	Additional Director (Soil Survey)/Principal Soil Chemist/Joint Director (Soil Survey)/Deputy Director (Soil Survey)	45
2.	Assistant Director (Soil Survey)/ Senior Chemist	35
3.	Soil Survey Officer/ Research Assistant/Cartographer /Technical Assistant	35"

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(5) in rule 6, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"6. *Appointing Authority.*- The Appointing Authority in respect of categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Branch I and categories 1, 2,3 and 4 of Branch II shall be the Government and the Director of Soil Survey and Soil Conservation shall be the appointing authority in respect of all other categories of Branch I and Branch II."

By order of the Governor,
DR B ASHOK I A S
Principal Secretary &
Agricultural Production Commissioner

Explanatory Note

(This does not form part of the notification, but is intended to indicate general purport.)

In the Special Rules for the Kerala Soil Conservation Service, 2008, issued as per G.O.(P) No.78/2008/AD dated 24th April 2008, and published as S. R. O. No.434/2008 in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No. 866 dated 3rd May, 2008, the method of appointment prescribed for the category 4, Assistant Director/ District Soil Conservation Officer in BRANCH I SOIL CONSERVATION from the feeder categories is in the ratio 5:2:1. Note (1) to the said category provided that, if sufficient number of persons are not available in one category for appointment by promotion in the above ratio, such vacancies shall also be filled from the next category and so on. As the existing provision lacks clarity and has led to administrative inconvenience, the Government vide letter No. EB1/ 19/2020/Agri. Dated 01-4-2023, has clarified the matter. Based on this the Government have decided to amend Note (1) of the said Special Rules with retrospective effect. Also the post of Principal Soil Chemist/ Joint Director of BRANCH II- SOIL SURVEY created vide G.O. (Ms.) No. 211/2015/AD dated 17th November, 2015 has not been incorporated in the Special Rules. Hence in order to achieve the above said purposes, the Government have decided to amend the Special Rules for Kerala Soil Conservation Service, 2008.

The notification is intended to achieve the above object.

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